



Aquarell by Hermann de Schlagintweit, September 1856. Or. No. 272

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## The Buddhist monastery Himis, near Leh, in Ladak.

Lat. North: 33° 59'

Long. East of Green: 77° 16'

Height 12,324 Engl. feet.

The building consists of two long, but comparatively narrow parts, the junction of which is formed by the principal entrance to the monastery. The basement contains two floors of low apartments, to these succeed two very lofty stories of large halls, some of which are inhabited by the Lamas, but the majority are used as sacred apartments and repositories for their numerous and varied articles of worship. The projecting verandahs and balconies which serve as wind-ows, are shaded with large hangings of black cloth, ornamented by white bands intersecting each other at right angles, and presenting a surprising though accidental likeness to the figure of the cross. In the inner compound, occupying the fore-ground, two large trees decorated with rings of Yak tails and long praying flags have been erected. Enclosing the compound appear a succession of covered corridors, contiguous to, though not all communicating with, each other, they contain a numerous array of praying cylinders, which are also to be seen along the walls of the building itself. The trees, which are fair specimens of poplar and willow, should be particularly noticed, as exhibiting forms only possible by a very careful cultivation. At the top of the staircase may be seen a group of the head Lamas, who gave me a very friendly reception, and from whom I succeeded in obtaining much valuable information, and many and various contributions to our ethnographical collection.





Painted by Hermann de Schlabach, August, 1860, No. 364.

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## The Valley of the Yarkand river, downwards from Dera Billu, in Turkistan.

Billu. Lat. North:  $35^{\circ} 49'$

Long. East of Green:  $77^{\circ} 31'$

Height (level of the river): 6883 Engl. feet.

The view of this region, where we arrived after a hard day's march from the northern foot of the Karakorum pass, presented a most melancholy and desolate aspect, which, however, was soon followed by tracts of still greater barrenness after leaving the valley and approaching the Kuenlun. At Dera Billu the river, although of considerable breadth, is still fordable, its bed is cut through horizontal deposits of gravel, which rise like walls to a height of from thirty to fifty feet. We were surprised to find, in addition to a few isolated spots on its left bank covered with low carices, an arborescent plant of perfectly ligneous structure, which is probably an instance of such a growth at the extreme limits where the formation of woody fibre allows of ones recognizing annual rings for a space of time extending over many decades. This shrub, called Yabagare by the Turkistanis, presents the peculiar appearance of arms radiating from the central stem close to the surface of the ground, the branches so closely adhering to the soil, as only to have attracted the attention of our guides, (who knew of its existence) as a precious, though at this moment unexpected fuel. Numerous remains, the waifs and strays of caravans crossing these heights, skeletons and carcasses of horses, luggage, saddles, fodder for animals of burden, and not unfrequently the low, temporary tomb of a Mussalman, are the way-marks indicating this valley to be the road to Yarkand. The two dark rocks, a little lower down, are known under the name Chadartish, the stone-tents, in allusion to their likeness to the broad Mongolian tents of dark wool. The ridges of dark, metamorphic and trap-like rocks in the distance, rise but little above the valley, the highest in sight being 18,452 feet above the level of the sea. As everywhere at great elevations, so also here, the sky shows a dark tint, but the reddish veil along the horizon is peculiar to the plateaux separating the chains of the Karakorum and the Kuenlun regions, where extreme dryness, vast sandy deserts, and the powerful influence of the sun's rays on the ground, combine to increase the quantity of solid matter suspended in the atmosphere. The whitish whirlpools near the rocks also show the river to flow downwards from the observer. The Yabagare is *Spiraea germanica*, var. *prostrata*.





Aquarell by Adolphe Schlagintweit, October, 1856. Or. No. 463.

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### I. Northern Aspect: The Gardens of Shalimar, and the neighbouring Mountains.



Aquarell by Hermann de Schlagintweit, October, 1856. Or. No. 462.

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### II. Southern Aspect: The Fort of Srinagar with the Chain of the Pir Panjal.

## Panorama of the Lake and the Gardens near Srinagar, Kashmir.

Srinagar: Lat North  $34^{\circ} 46'$ Long. East of Green:  $74^{\circ} 48' 5''$ 

Height: 5,146 Engl. feet.

The shores of the lake in the immediate vicinity of the capital of Kashmir have materially contributed to spread the fame of the beauty of this country, not indeed by the forms of grand Alpine scenery, but by the character of unrivalled loveliness. In the northern aspect of the Panorama we see two valleys, and a ridge along the shores of the lake connected by a succession of gardens dating from the seventeenth century, from the time of Shah Jehangir. The southern aspect of the Panorama presents the fort of Srinagar, erected on the mountain Takht-i-Sulaiman, and the approaches to the capital. The distant ridge in the horizon is the profile of the Pir Panjal, mountain-chains of an average height of 15,000 feet. The lake is shallow throughout, and a level green carpet of weeds waving uninterruptedly beneath the surface displays an unexpected contrast to the general aspect of this sheet of water, which is of a brilliant blue colour and of surprising purity. The numerous 'rahds,' or floating gardens, also deserve especial mention. Less poetical objects than might be expected, they consist simply of rafts covered with earth and fixed to the ground by poles, their use being exclusively limited to horticultural purposes. The proportions of the Atlas did not allow of our giving the Panorama with its parts joined together, it will be easy, however, to observe, that a part of the dark hills breaking off at the respective margins is given in both sheets, and in reality occupies the centre of the Panorama.





Painting by Hermann de Schlagintweit, March 1851, Nr. 15.

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## The Summit of Parisnath, in Bahar.

Lat. North: 23° 57' 8

Long. East of Green: 86° 6' 9

Height: 4,469 Engl. feet.

This mountain, the highest peak in the regions of India drained by the Ganges and Indus is a spot of peculiar sanctity. The Jain religion, the last and materially modified form of Buddhism in India, has made this place (as Mount Abu in the north-west) one of the principal seats of its worship, its numerous small temples, the most sacred of which contains the *châran*, or sacred foot-prints, are visited every year by thousands of pilgrims. Impenetrable sal-forests (*Vaterra robusta*) cover the lower parts of these hilly regions, which are composed of gneiss and granite, the forests are succeeded at some elevation by vegetation of greater variety, but of inferior dimensions, often interrupted by the rocky prominences of the ridges. At the period when the temperature begins rapidly to increase (the early spring of Europe), as at the time of my visit, the change of the atmosphere with height is a prominent feature, showing that, with increased elevation, the air becomes here not only cooler, but also charged with a much greater amount of moisture. This impression is apparently increased by the clouds, when approached and looked at under flat angles. They appear to cover all the sky with a nearly unbroken surface, while the sun, from its almost vertical position, projects their shadows isolated and of the natural size. On many days, however, the outlines of the shadows become nearly imperceptible (as in the view presented), in consequence of the general haze spread over the country.





Aquarell by Hermann de Schlegelweit, Jan. 1856. Or. No. 155.

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### Central Assam and the Brahmaputra jungles, from Ógri Hill near Tézpur.

Lat. North 26° 34' 36"

Long. East of Green. 92° 46' 8"

Height of tent 199 ft. of the Brahmaputra 117 ft.

The powerful stream is here represented sweeping along in a bed of from ten to twelve miles in breadth, having cut itself a way through numerous islands covered with jungles of cane and shrubs, a vast ground for earnest sport. It is the cool season, the water is comparatively low at present, the islands show their sandy walls, the affluences their muddy delta, but, exceptionally, the sky is covered by a heavy storm, and presents the aspect of the rainy season.

The slopes of the granite hill upon which the tent is placed, and those in the distance above it, are some of the localities which have recently become so important for the cultivation of tea.



ENUMERATION OF THE ROUTES.

Table with columns: Route No., From, Lat. Long., To, Lat. Long., Number of Stages. Contains routes 1-118.



ENUMERATION OF THE ROUTES.

Table with columns: Route No., From, Lat. Long., To, Lat. Long., Number of Stages. Contains routes 119-341.



